

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11

FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 CG-00

DOT-00 DODE-00 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 190305Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3023

INFO COMNAVTELCOM

USNAVCOMSTA HAROLD E HOLT

CINCPAC

CNO

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2309

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST CAPE SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 062034 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPLY FROM DFA TO PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATION OF NORTHWEST CAPE SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS (REFTEL). TEXT BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT

1) CONFIRM AUSTRALIAN REPLY IS ACCEPTABLE; 2) COMMUNICATE LIST OF U.S. NEGOTIATORS AND DATE OF ARRIVAL; 3) ARRANGE FOR NEGOTIATORS TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR IN CANBERRA BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NORTHWEST CAPE; AND 4) ENSURE NEGOTIATORS DO NOT ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA UNTIL AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS MAY 18. END SUMMARY

2. FOL RECEIPT OF REFTL, CONTAINING U.S. NAVY PROPOSALS  
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FOR NEGOTIATING NEW OR AMENDED WRITTEN AGREEMENTS WITH

AUSTRALIAN NAVY COVERING NORTHWEST CAPE REGARDING JOINT MANNING, DEPUTY COMMANDER DUTIES, COMMISSARY/EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES FOR RAN PERSONNEL, COST SHARING, AND MEDICAL SERVICES/LIABILITY FOR RAN PERSONNEL, EMBASSY PASSED ON SUBSTANCE TO DFA (WILSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE POLICY BRANCH) ON APRIL 1.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOL REPLY FROM WILSON, DATED APR 16:

QTE I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 1 APRIL, 1974 ABOUT THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING NORTH WEST CAPE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND THE ROAYL AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOLLOWING THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY MR. BARNARD AND DR. SCHLESINGER IN WASHINGTON IN JANUARY.

QTE WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE WHO ADVISE THAT THE RAN WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE DRAFT AGREEMENTS AS SUGGESTED BY THE US NAVY. THE RAN WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, CAPTAIN J. A. ROBERTSON. AS TO THE SITE FOR THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS WE SUGGEST THAT IT BE NORTH WEST CAPE AND CANBERRA, AS APPROPRIATE. END QTE

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES ABOVE REPLY SUBSTANTIALLY MEETS OUR NEEDS AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS SO AND LIST OF U.S. NEGOTIATIONS AND DATE OF THEIR EXPECTED ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA, FOR COMMUNICATION TO GOA. SUGGEST THAT NEGOTIATING TEAM PLAN TO ARRIVE IN CANBERRA FOR MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO TRAVEL TO NORTHWEST CAPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH RAN.

5. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR U.S. NAVY TEAM NOT RPT NOT TO PALN TO COME TO AUSTRALIA UNTIL AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS NOW SET FOR MAY 18. WE NOTE ALSO THAT LEFT-WING AND COMMUNIST-ORIENTATED GROUPS PLAN "LONG MARCH" BY BUS TO NORTHWEST CAPE DURING PERIOD MAY 4-27, TO DEMAND U.S. NAVY COMMUNICATIONS STATION  
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BE CLOSED DOWN. NOT CLEAR HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL MAKE TRIP BUT WE DOUBT THERE WILL BE MUCH OF A DEMONSTRATION. AUSTRALIAN AND U.S. NAVY AUTHORITIES AT FACILITY FULLY AWARE OF "VISIT" AND HAVE MADE APPROPORATE DISPOSITIONS. PERIOD AFTER JUNE 1 MIGHT BE BEST FOR VISIT. BALLOT COUNTING WILL TAKE UP TO 12 DAYS AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS DAY, AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT PREFER TO PUT MATTER OFF UNTIL NEW CABINET IN OFFICE.

GREEN

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## Message Attributes

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